



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/580,865	05/30/2000	Brian Unitt	476-1922	1155

7590

07/16/2003

William M Lee Jr  
BARNES & THORNBURG  
P O Box 2786  
Chicago, IL 60690-2786

EXAMINER

PHAN, HANH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2633

DATE MAILED: 07/16/2003

8

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/580,865

Applicant(s)

UNITT ET AL.

Examiner

Hanh Phan

Art Unit

2633

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 May 2000.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,5,6,8,10,12,14-16,18,19,21 and 24-27 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5,6,8,10,21,26 and 27 is/are allowed.

- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 2,3,12,14,15,18,19,24 and 25 is/are rejected.

- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 16 is/are objected to.

- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.  
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).  
\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).  
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This Office Action is responsive to the Amendment filed on 04/21/2003.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 2, 3, 12, 14, 15, 24 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lahat et al (US Patent No. 6,417,944).

Regarding claim 2, referring to Figure 1, Lahat teaches a passive optical coupler (i.e., optical switch module 14) comprising:

a plurality of port pairs (i.e., input port 0, output port 0, ..., input port N, output port N) each port pair comprising an input port and a corresponding output port;

wherein each input port is coupled to all output ports other its corresponding output port (col. 6, lines 39-64, col. 8, lines 26-41 and col. 9, lines 10-30).

Regarding claims 3 and 12, Lahat teaches a communications access network comprising a passive optical coupler (i.e., optical switch module 14) comprising:

a plurality of port pairs (i.e., input port 0, output port 0, ..., input port N, output port N) each port pair comprising an input port and a corresponding output port;

wherein each input port is coupled to all output ports other its corresponding output port (col. 6, lines 39-64, col. 8, lines 26-41 and col. 9, lines 10-30).

Regarding claims 14, 24 and 25, referring to figures 1 and 2, Lahat teaches an optical transceiver arrangement for a passive optical network arrangement including a passive optical coupler (i.e., optical switch module 14) comprising a plurality of port pairs (i.e., input port 0, output port 0, ..., input port N, output port N) each port pair comprising an input port and a corresponding output port; wherein each input port is coupled to all output ports other its corresponding output port (col. 6, lines 39-64, col. 8, lines 26-41 and col. 9, lines 10-30), the transceiver arrangement comprising:

a transmitter (i.e., tunable optical transmitter 36)(Fig. 2) arranged to transmit data on a first optical frequency;

a transmission detector (i.e., tunable optical sense unit 51)(Fig. 2) arranged to receive, on said first optical frequency, signals from a network indicative of a transmission by another subscriber station on said first frequency;

a medium access logic unit (i.e., scheduler 40)(Fig. 2) arranged to prevent transmission on said first frequency while said transmission detector is detecting said signals from a network indicative of a transmission by another subscriber station on said first frequency (col. 8, lines 26-67 and col. 9, lines 1-30).

Regarding claim 15, Lahat further teaches the receiver arranged to receive data on a second optical frequency (col. 8, lines 42-65).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lahat et al (US Patent No. 6,417,944).

Regarding claims 18 and 19, it would have been obvious to obtain the transmission detector comprises a simple light detector and the light detector is a PIN diode in order to easy to detect a lightwave and convert the light into the electricity.

6. Claim 16 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Claims 5, 6, 8, 10, 21, 26 and 27 are allowed.

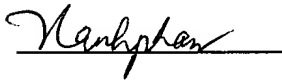
8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 2, 3, 12, 14-16, 18 and 19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh Phan whose telephone number is (703)306-5840.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan, can be reached on (703)305-4729. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9314.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-4700.



Hanh Phan

07/11/2003